



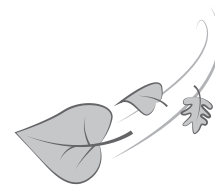
FRIENDS OF GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

1920 EAGLE DRIVE

BALTIMORE, MD 21207

www.friendsofgwynnsfallsleakinpark.org

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Fall 2014

FOGFLP SUMMER OF 2014

George Farrant

FOGFLP volunteers worked on lots of projects with many people and groups this past summer.

In June, we helped to supervise a church group of 25 people from Richmond, VA. They gave one day of their week's mission in Baltimore to Parks and People. They did stream clean-up and weeding in the garden by the Ben Cardin Pavilion.

FOGFLP participated in and helped to coordinate a half day clean-up of the Gwynns Falls near Carroll Park with ~100 people from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

FOGFLP volunteers worked with Parks and People again in August to help supervise 15 Medical students from JHU for a half day of pulling vines from newly planted trees on Wetheredsville Road.

We also planned projects together with Parks and People to utilize the help of 125 freshmen and transfer students from Goucher College for various projects involving trail restoration and stream clean-up.

In September, we worked with Blue Water Baltimore and 15 students from Bryn Mawr School on a Dead Run stream clean-up.

FOGFLP's Tuesday morning work group, composed of mostly retirees, meets for two hours every week from 9-11 to do weed whacking and trail restoration work. In August and September, the group work very hard on clearing overgrowth and downed trees from many of the hiking trails in the park. These trails included the Hunting Ridge, the Carrie Murray Loop, the Wetlands, the Franklinton Loop, the Old Spring,



Jerome Golder

and the Stream trails. We also coordinated our work details to improve those trails that the Outward Bound 5K Trail Challenge was utilizing on September 15.

The FOGFLP group sponsors **Second Sundays** from April through November in the Crimea area of the park. We help manage the parking lot as hundreds of families show up from 11:00-3:30 to ride the steam engines operated by The Chesapeake and Allegheny Live Steamers. We have engaged a city farm to provide pony rides for children and we make sure the Chapel, the Orianda Mansion, and the labyrinth are open to visitors. We pay for keeping the Carrie Murray Nature Center open during Second Sundays, we support walks/hikes through the park, and we supervise games and bike rides for children... all of this on Second Sundays.

Whew!!! We do a lot of work to make sure people use and enjoy our wonderful park.

OUTWARD BOUND 5K TRAIL CHALLENGE IN LEAKIN PARK

Bridget McCusker

On Saturday, September 13, Outward Bound Baltimore Chesapeake Bay sponsored a trail run in Leakin Park. There were 193 runners who completed the 3.1 mile course and over 200 people including enthusiastic supporters, volunteers, and vendors were in the park on race day. Rain was forecast but it

held off until the last wave of runners was close to the finish. The trails were in great condition and thanks go out to the FOGFLP trail crew for all of their hard work over the summer to maintain and improve the trails in our park. The course was well marked and offered a variety of trail conditions including paved and unpaved trails, hills, and even a boardwalk. The event received support and contributions from numerous local agencies and

supporters and approximately 10 vendors were present. The event created positive exposure for Outward Bound Chesapeake Bay and Leakin Park. It was reported that over \$10,000 was raised for Outward Bound youth programs. It was wonderful to hear so many positive comments about the park from finishers, most of whom were first time visitors. Plans for the Second Annual Trail Challenge are in the works.

PARK STEWARDS IN ACTION AT WINANS MEADOW

Heide Grundmann

The FOGFLP were fortunate to be granted sufficient funds to station 2 park stewards at Winans Meadow for 18 weeks from the end of May to the end of September. Almost 1000 park users appreciated their presence, friendly greetings, and the information they distributed. Little did they know that the stewards, Fred Norton, Daniel Hukportie (who left at the end of August) and in September, Jack Mountain, also saw to it that the toilets were functional and well supplied, that wooded debris and overhanging branches were removed, the parking lot and pavilion were clean, overflow parking was well managed and potholes along the asphalt trails were filled with gravel, fill dirt and top soil. They worked hard preparing 4 doors and a park bench for painting. They were dismayed encountering intentional scratches in the new paint, which required doing the job over again on 2 occasions. They also watered newly planted trees and shrubs during this moderate, but almost rain-free summer.

The presence of park stewards allowed for greater people presence, providing a sense of welcome and safety, improved the appearance and maintenance of the Winans Meadow sites, aided in problem solving, and possibly guarded against potential vandalism. For 10 weeks our park stewards kept a

log giving us insights of park users, events, and how to be an “employer” of casual temporary workers.

The FRIENDS were lucky to find 3 congenial college students who became excellent and pleasant park advocates performing their public relations and physical maintenance tasks. The FOGFLP thank Fred, Dan and Jack whole-heartedly for their good work and interest in returning to such a job next year, should this opportunity arise again.

For the curious here are some numbers from the 10-week statistics:

Park stewards worked 36 days, 8 hours anywhere between 10AM-6PM on weekends partially in pairs but also alone. They encountered: About 950 visitors, from 9-170 in one day. Largest users age range from 19-35 (about 349 people). Dog visits-75, 0-50 cars at any hour on lot and overflow parking. Temperatures from 68-85 with only 2 rainy days.

Besides 4 regular routines, stewards completed 14 maintenance tasks

They observed: Church services, reunions, family picnics, clean ups, weed-outs, tree plantings, graduation parties, a wedding, baby shower, a kids hike, Tour dem Parks, Outward Bound all-terrain 5 k-run, and regular individual users. Many visitors were in the park for the first time. and expressed their appreciation

for finding the steward information table as they were entering the park.

We thank the Friends volunteers for their 80 hours of volunteer time invested in this worthwhile project. The Park Steward committee: George Farrant, Dick Fairbanks and Heide Grundmann.

The park stewards project was funded by a grant from the Department of Recreation and Parks and was administered by the Parks and People Foundation.



UPDATE ON BGE PROPOSAL FOR GAS PIPELINE IN THE GF/LP

Jo Orser

In early June representatives from the Friends, Recreation and Parks Chief of Parks and Director of Forestry and BGE representatives, including the project manager, two members of the public relations office, and representatives from their environmental consultant firm walked a northern route as an alternative to the options that had been previously presented. With the preliminary environmental studies of the route complete, there was much discussion along the walk.

BGE prefers the most direct southern routing from the end of I-70 to their pipeline connection on the east side of the park. This route continues to concern the Friends because it contains the greatest number of mature trees.

The environmental consultant cited concerns regarding wetlands that the northern option crossed. Other members of the BGE team pointed out the longer distance, the stream crossings and costs that came from the longer distance. Acknowledging the concerns, Bill Vondrasek, Chief of Parks, suggested a deviation of the northern routing that would take the pipeline through more open space within park grounds. The BGE officials agreed to conduct an environmental study of that route. Once that is completed, the group will meet again to discuss pros and cons. Public meetings must be held after consensus by this working group.

NATURE ART IN THE PARK 2014 COLLABORATES WITH CREATORS OF CANTATA FOR A LOOP TRAIL

Jude Asher and Heide Grundmann

In June we were excited when composer, Eric Spangler, and collaborators "Rhymes with Opera" wanted to perform "Cantata for a Loop Trail" specifically composed for the Carrie Murray Nature Loop Trail in Leakin Park using selected sites of the Nature Art in the Park exhibit and historic features there. During the weekend of Sunday, June 15, strolling musicians and actors at 5 sites gave 8 performances to the walk -and-halt audiences of 15 each. This creative contemporary melodic composition told about the love of nature from recorded interviews sounding out of the woods, the lyrics of the songs contained text from found letters, Latin documents and deeds of local historic past enchanting the audience with expressively acted performances. Fluegelhorn, violin, recorder, percussion and Melodica sounded in interludes along the walking path. Birds, and cicadas offered their accompaniment. This was a unique first experience much treasured by all. Eric, a Peabody



graduate, teaches at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). The musicians and singer/performers are highly trained and talented members of an innovative group of Baltimore and New York City musicians called "Rhymes with Opera"

Nature Art in the Park (NAP) continues in its fourth year with 19 new works added to enduring past creations. NAP invites you to special gatherings every 2 months through November with guided art tours and nature art making. Children become amazingly creative at the Play with Nature play space behind the playground especially during Family Fun Days on Second Sundays through November. The impressions of installations changes with the change of the seasons inviting for

repeated visits any time through the year. Exhibit guides can be found in boxes by the Windsormill/Eagle Drive parking lot and at the "Leakin House Tree" near the gazebo and the art trail entrances nearby of the Eagle Drive Loop. Visiting school classes and neighborhood youth enjoy days of exploration and discovery. Come get inspired by Nature Art in the Park and the art nature creates itself.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS IN GWYNNS FALLS/LEAKIN PARK

Second Sundays in the Park are about to come to end for 2014. November 9 will be our last time meeting until April 2015 (11:00-3:30).

Guided Gentle Walks occur every Thursday from 9:00 – 10:00am leaving from the Winans Meadow area at 4500 N. Franklinton Rd, 21229. For info contact Heide hgrundor@aol.com, (410) 945-0586

Tuesday mornings Volunteer Work from 9-11:00am, meet at 1920 Eagle Dr., 21207. (yellow trail house), tools and gloves provided. For info contact George at (410) 566-2101, gfarrant@yahoo.com

Nature Art in the Park 2014, an art exhibit of artworks made from natural materials along dedicated trails by volunteer artists can be accessed during daytime hours. An exhibition guide with map can be found in the Eagle Dr/Windsor Mill Rd parking lot info box. For more info contact Heide, hgrundot@aol.com (410) 945-0586

Saturday Family Programs and horseback riding opportunities at at Carrie Murray Nature Center, www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org

Gwynns Falls Trail Alerts – check www.gwynnsfalltrail.org for trail detours between Baltimore St. and Frederick Avenue.

Contact Dept. of Recreation and Parks for info about more events along the Gwynns Falls Trail, molly.gallant@baltimorecity.gov, (410) 396-7900. Events include Hay Rides, a Bike Tour, and a Fall Kayak Trip.



Holiday Open House
at the **Orianda Mansion**
Saturday, December 13,
5:00 – 9:00pm

1901 Eagle Dr.,
Baltimore, MD 21207

Speaker- Carlisle Hashim:
Oysters in Baltimore



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**FOLLOW US ON
TWITTER: @FOGFLP**

The Friends of Gwynns Falls Leakin Park now has a Twitter account. Be sure to follow us for upcoming events in and around the park or to see what our colleagues in other parks organizations and environmental groups are doing around Baltimore. It is a great way to increase our presence on the web and reach a broader audience. Be sure to follow us. Our Twitter name is @FOGFLP. If you would like to promote an event in the park through Twitter, be sure to email Jim Brown at jimbrown8@msn.com.

ANOTHER SUMMER OF SCA YOUTH WORKERS AND ANOTHER SUSTAINABLE TRAIL

Jo Orser

Since 2012 when a professional trail builder declared that the trails in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park needed much improvement, teams of youth workers, ages 16–18 years, have come to the park for six weeks in the summer to reroute and landscape selected trails that by summer's end would be called sustainable – free of erosion and suitable for a variety of trail users.

For the third year, the Friends partnered with the non-profit Student Conservation Association whose mission is to improve trails and to give work opportunities to urban youth in the out-of-doors. This year the Friends received a \$15,000 grant from the Md. DOT to facilitate the process of hiring a team of Baltimore City youth to work and learn with well trained counselors in trail building, water management techniques, environmental issues and relationship-building skills. The project changes the trail direction from one that went straight down the hill to one that meanders along the hillside – a longer trail, yes, but one that does not create gullies which over time, cut deeper and deeper.

To plan the trail building project, the Friends again reached out to an old friend, Eric Crawford, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts Association, who has



helped with the design phase of two previous rerouting. In early spring before the foliage got too thick, Eric with Friends in tow, flagged a path through the woods with a rise of not more than an 8% grade. Once the flags were in place, the next step was the arrival of the youth in June.

The new trail retains the name of the Ridge Trail and can be accessed from the Norman Reeves Trail near the pavilion on Eagle Drive. Come see what you think.

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